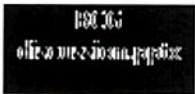


Jackson, Susank

From: Pond, Greg
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:07 AM
To: Jackson, Susank
Cc: Fulton, Jennifer; Forren, John; Reynolds, Louis; Passmore, Margaret
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

FYI-- here is the .ppt I did on the go to meeting. There were a lot of non-biologists in the room so I kept it simple; I only had 20 minutes on their agenda. I explained how BCG "should" be done. When they wanted a 1-day workshop, I let them know that I wasn't sure how that would work but told them we'd be happy to assist in any way we could.

And yes, they have fish and salamander data too.



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From: Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US
To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/29/2013 11:48 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

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Susan

-----Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US

Date: 01/29/2013 06:52PM

Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

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-----Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA wrote: -----

=====

To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/29/2013 06:50PM
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

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From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US
To: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/29/2013 06:32 PM
Subject: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

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-----Forwarded by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US on 01/29/2013 06:28PM -----

=====
To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: "Symborski, Mark" <Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org>
Date: 01/29/2013 06:02PM
Cc: "Keith.VanNess (Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov)"
<Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "Dolan, Mary" <Mary.Dolan@montgomeryplanning.org>,
"Lazdins, Valdis" <valdis.lazdins@montgomeryplanning.org>, Taylor Jarnagin/RTP/USEPA/US,
Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Redmond, Doug" <Doug.Redmond@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County
=====

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Mark

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Montgomery County Planning Department
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301-495-1303 (Fax)
mark.symborski@montgomeryplanning.org<<mailto:mark.symborski@mncppc-mc.org>>

What is the Biological Condition Gradient (BCG)?

A scientific framework for determining biological response to anthropogenic stress

Longstanding, accepted science

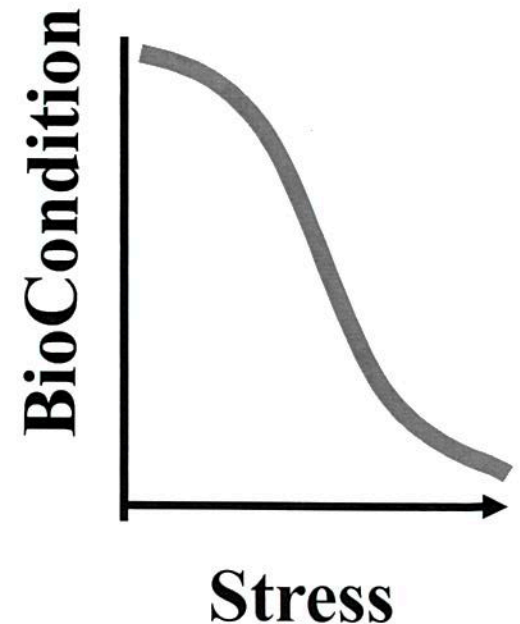
Measurable and predictable

Based on biological data

Allows for regionwide assessments and comparisons on a level playing field

Must be calibrated by region, stream class

Provides an effective means to communicate biological conditions to resource managers and the public



Levels of Biological Condition

Level 1. Natural structural, functional, and taxonomic integrity is preserved.

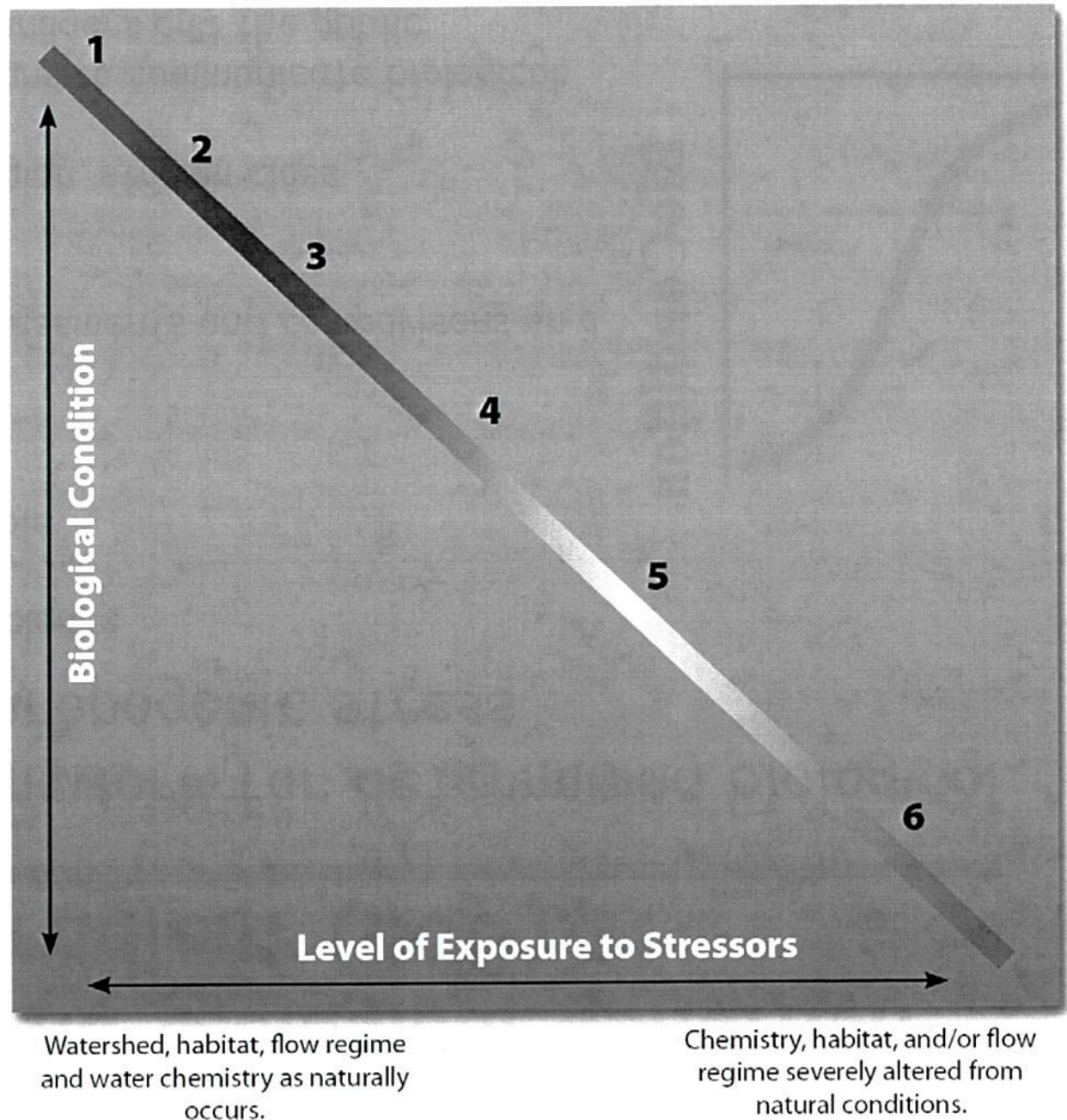
Level 2. Structure & function similar to natural community with some additional taxa & biomass; ecosystem level functions are fully maintained.

Level 3. Evident changes in structure due to loss of some rare native taxa; shifts in relative abundance; ecosystem level functions fully maintained.

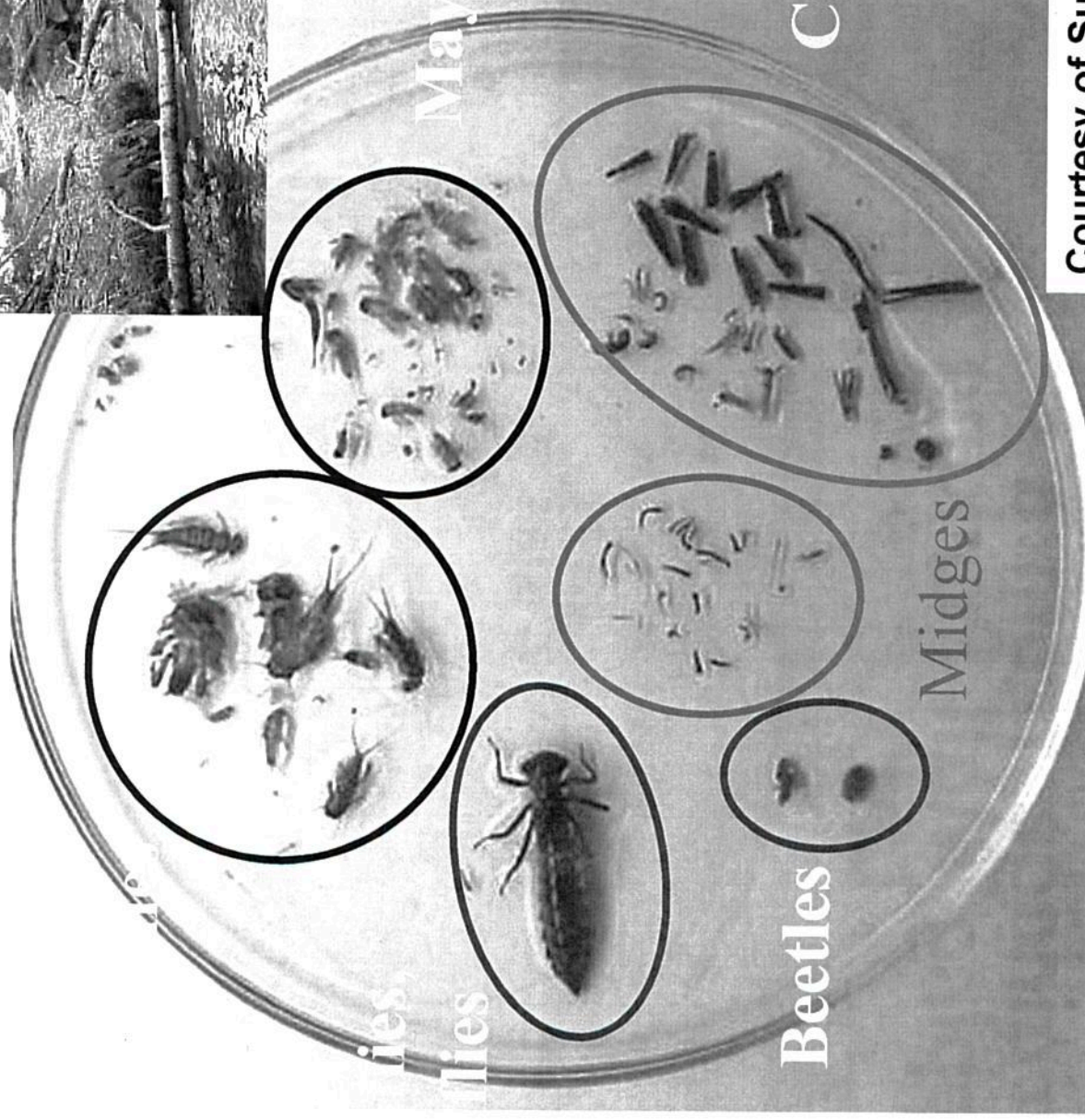
Level 4. Moderate changes in structure due to replacement of some sensitive ubiquitous taxa by more tolerant taxa; ecosystem functions largely maintained.

Level 5. Sensitive taxa markedly diminished; conspicuously unbalanced distribution of major taxonomic groups; ecosystem function shows reduced complexity & redundancy.

Level 6. Extreme changes in structure and ecosystem function; wholesale changes in taxonomic composition; extreme alterations from normal densities.

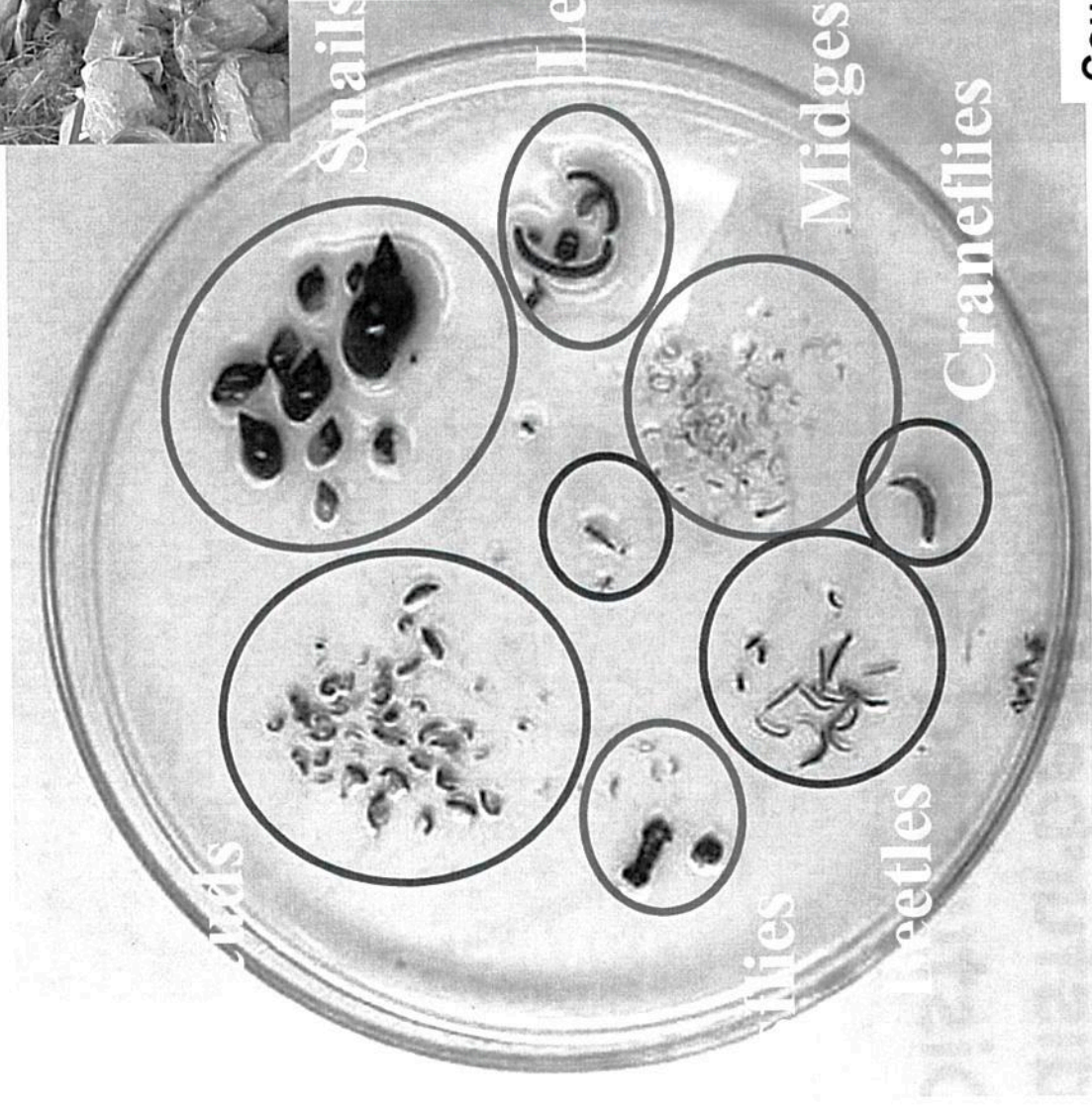
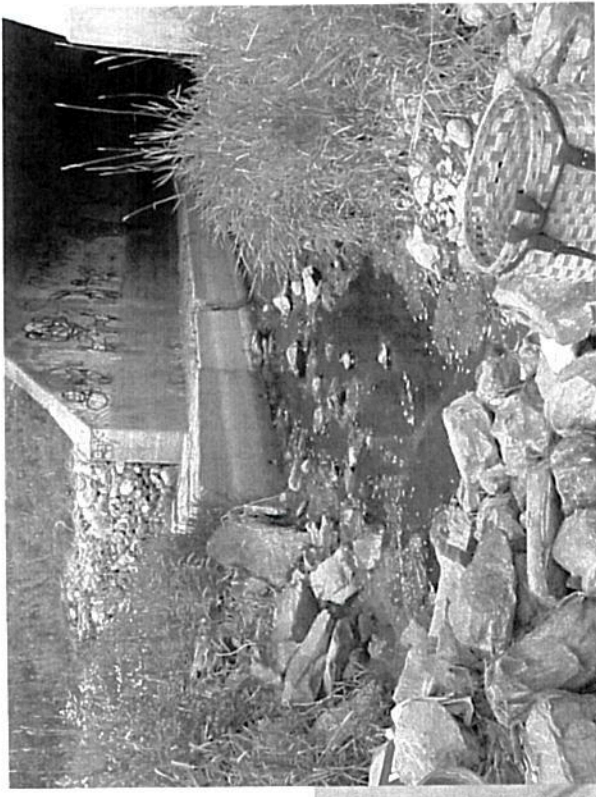


Undisturbed/Minimally Disturbed Stream



Courtesy of Susan Davies, ME DEP

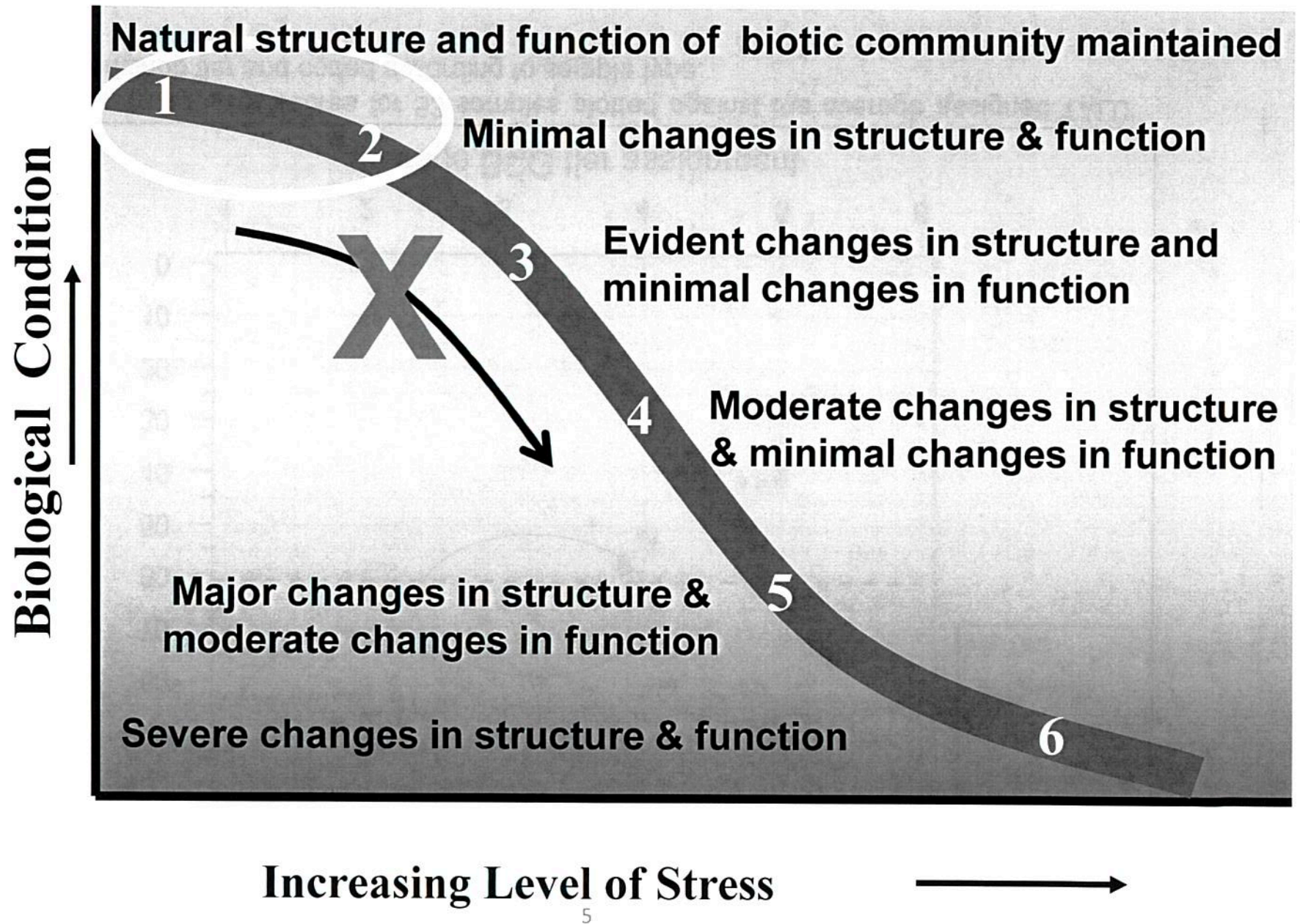
Drainage from a Shopping Mall Parking Lot



1 inch

Courtesy of Susan Davies, ME DEP

Biological Condition Gradient-Protect HQ Waters



Example: PA Freestone Streams

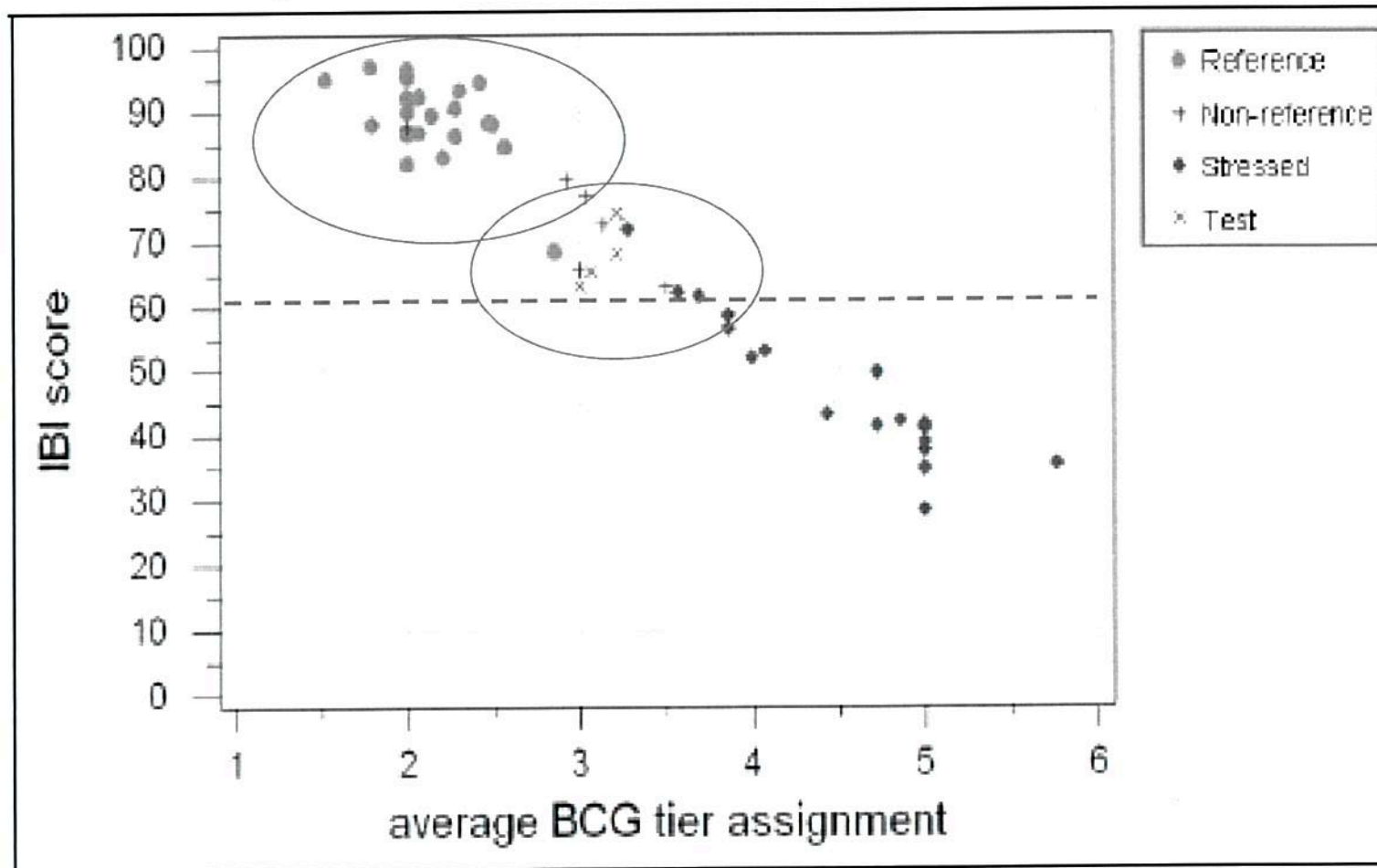
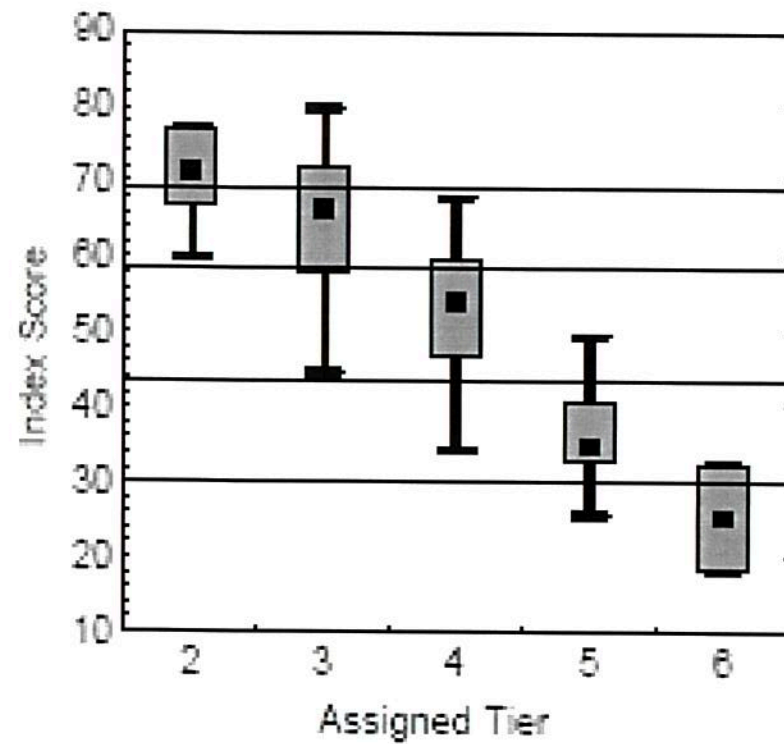
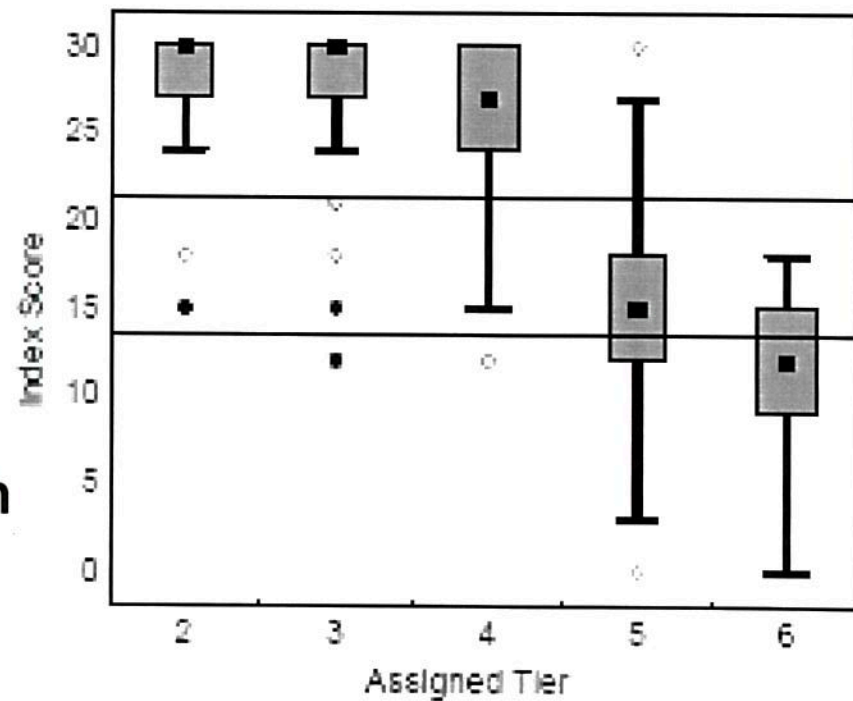


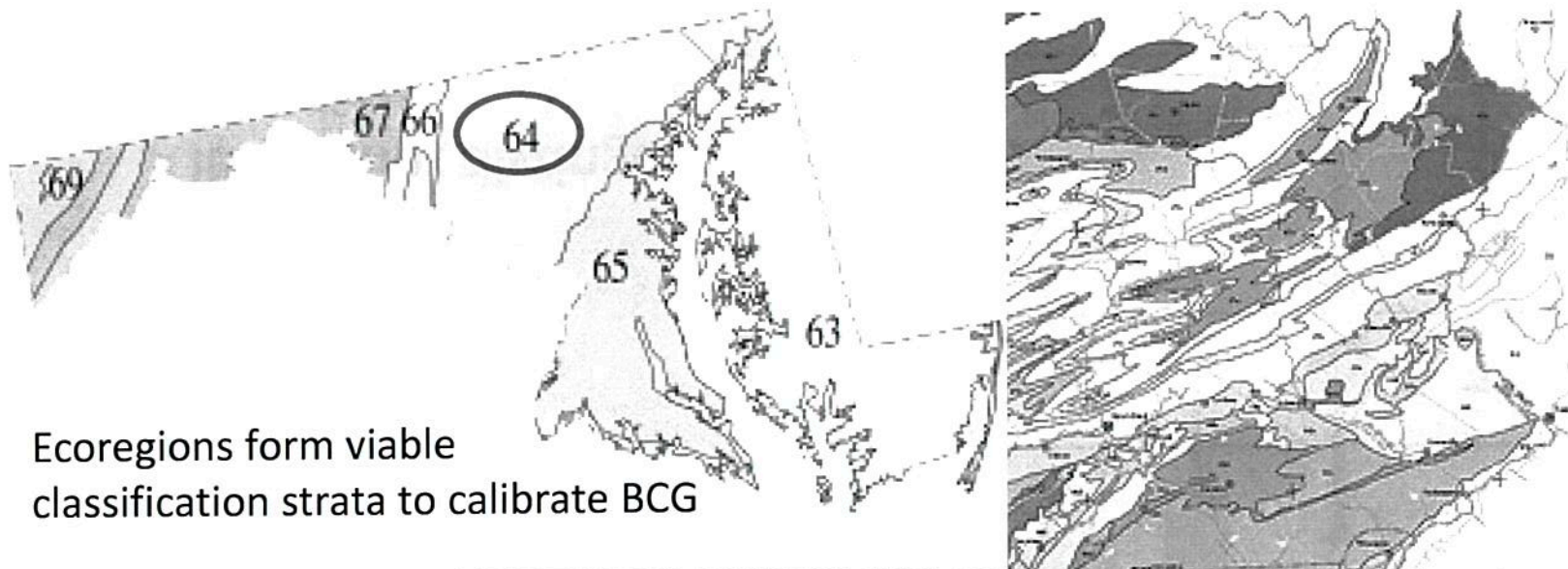
Figure 17. IBI scores for 53 samples plotted against the average assigned TALU workshop tier and coded according to sample type.



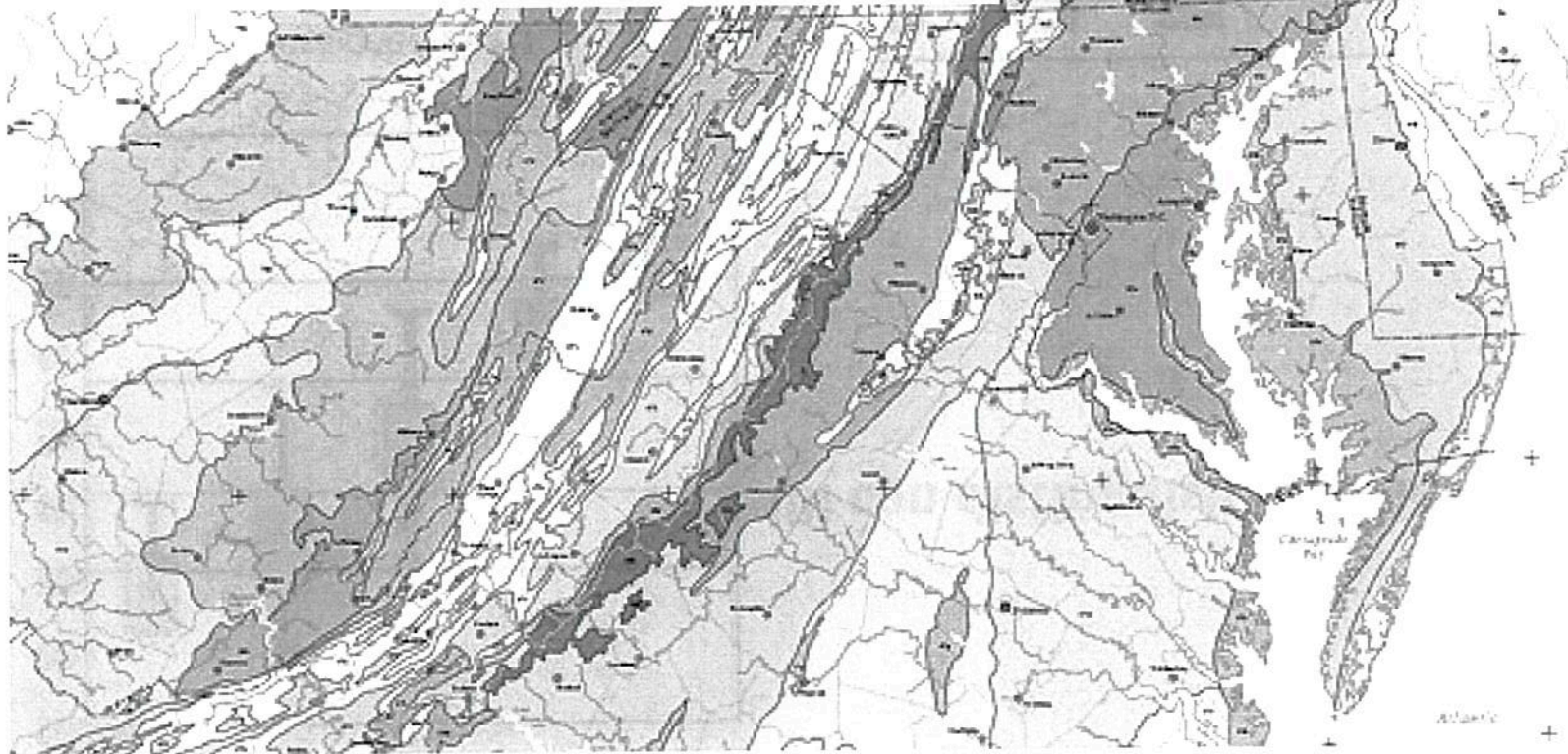
IBI can distinguish BCG tiers

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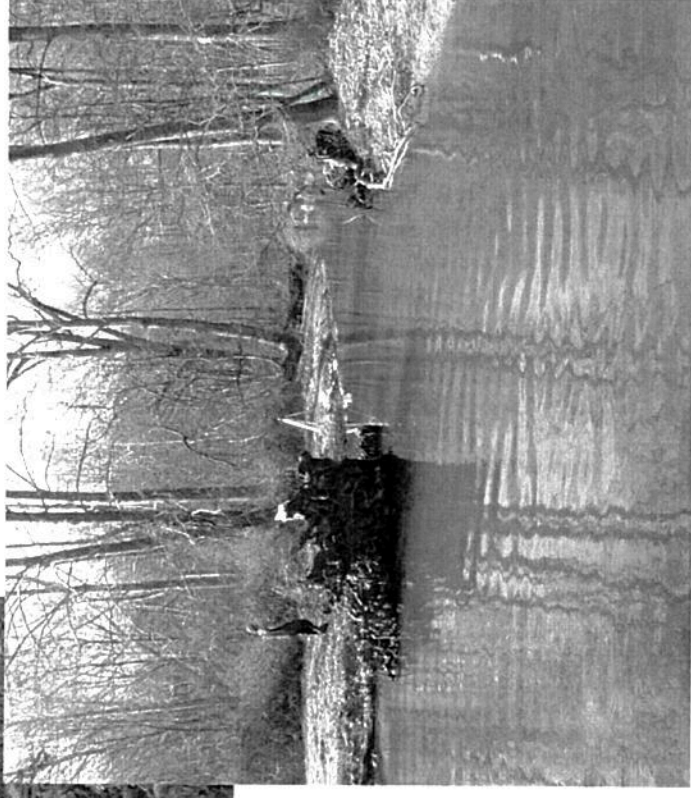
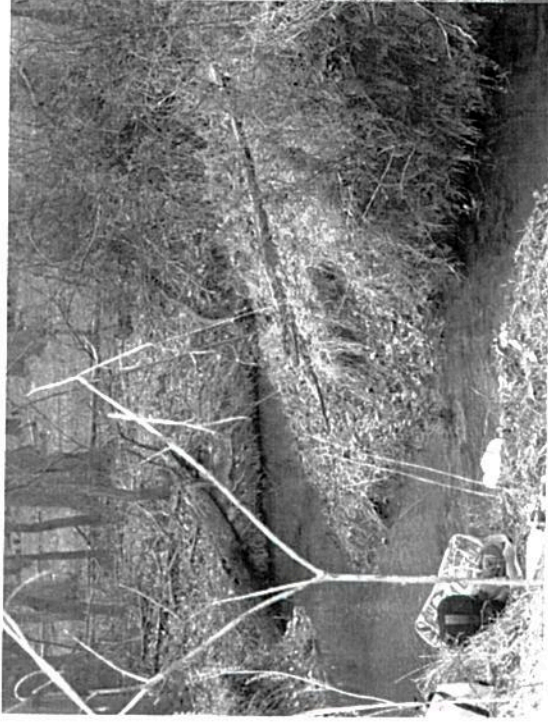




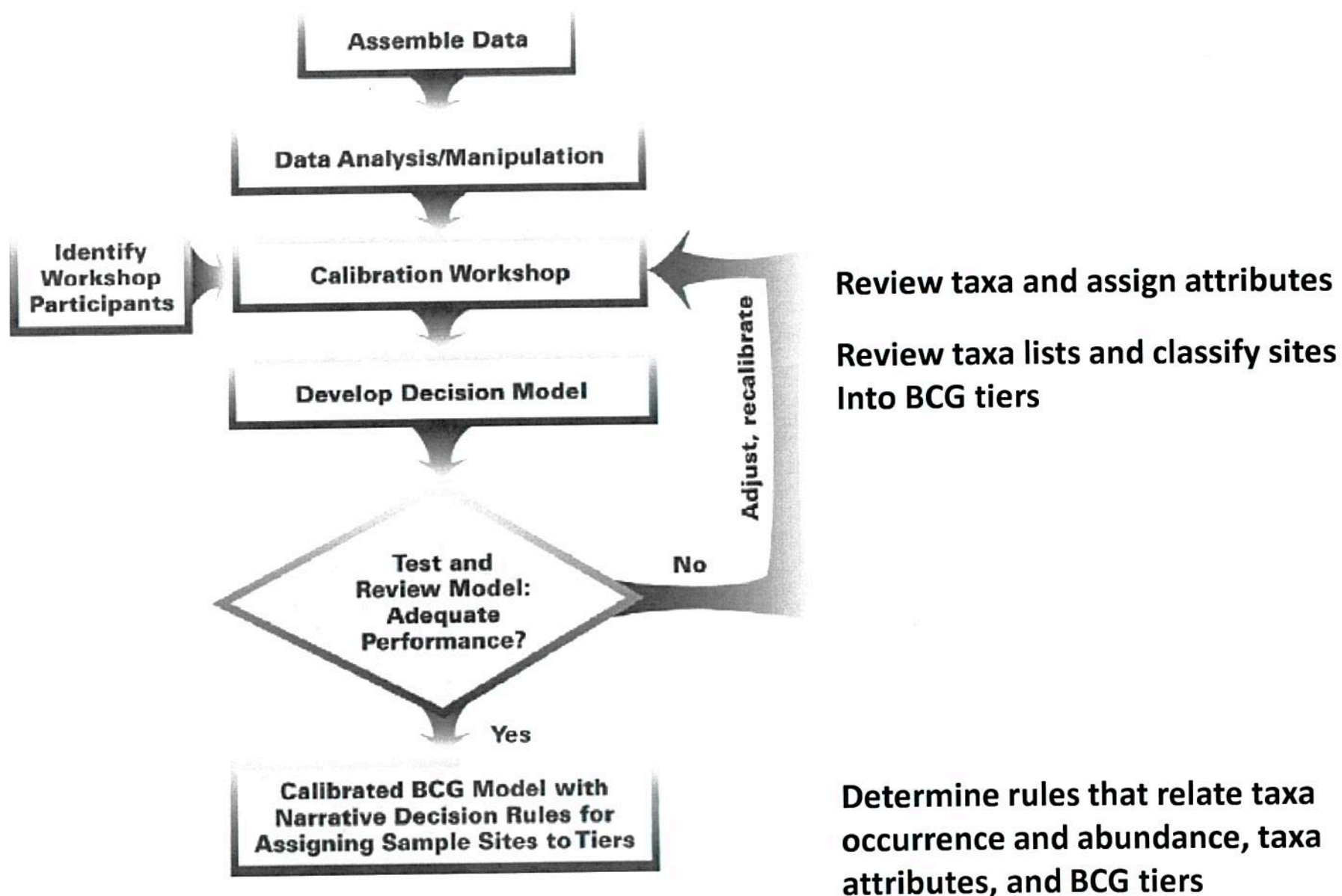
Ecoregions form viable
classification strata to calibrate BCG



**Stream size or reach gradient-type stratification
should also be considered in BCG development**



BCG Calibration



Jackson, Susank

From: Jackson, Susank
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:32 AM
To: Passmore, Margaret
Cc: Pond, Greg; Fulton, Jennifer; Forren, John; Reynolds, Louis
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

Absolutely agree ... that is one of the key objectives of the BCG, as a communication tool to show current state of condition in context of natural, undisturbed condition.

From: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US
To: Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/30/2013 09:48 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

Susan,

My experience with BCG guidance and projects in PA is that we were encouraging the development of a gradient that described the absolute condition of streams where the best condition (Tier 1) was anchored to "natural conditions".

Obviously, we want to encourage counties (or anyone) to protect their best streams.

In this case, I think we should be clear that BCG models were not meant to be a relative measures (Tier 1 is equivalent to best of what's left within a county or watershed).

Greg attended the go to meeting, so can provide more details on conditions of streams in the county, compared to natural conditions (say compared to a broader MBSS reference condition).

Just want to make sure that the concepts of BCG being pegged to "natural" on the high end don't get lost....but we still protect best streams in counties, watersheds, etc when we have the oppty. Could be just how the model is described in the end....

M

Margaret Passmore
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From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US
Date: 01/29/2013 06:52PM
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

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-----Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA wrote: -----

=====
To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/29/2013 06:50PM
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
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-----Forwarded by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US on 01/29/2013 06:28PM -----

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To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: "Symborski, Mark" <Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org>
Date: 01/29/2013 06:02PM
Cc: "Keith.VanNess (Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov)" <Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "Dolan, Mary" <Mary.Dolan@montgomeryplanning.org>, "Lazdins, Valdis" <valdis.lazdins@montgomeryplanning.org>, Taylor Jarnagin/RTP/USEPA/US, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Redmond, Doug" <Doug.Redmond@montgomeryparks.org>
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301-495-1303 (Fax)

mark.symborski@montgomeryplanning.org <<mailto:mark.symborski@mncppc-mc.org>>

Jackson, Susank

From: Pond, Greg
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 10:57 AM
To: Jackson, Susank
Cc: Gerritsen Jeroen; Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org; Reynolds, Louis
Subject: Re: Follow up re 10 mile creek

Hi Susan--thanks for the follow up and for reaching out to Jeroen.

I just spoke with Mark and we have a conference call tomorrow at 9:00 to start getting some data sets together to organize in advance. Would be great if Jeroen is available then. If not, I can follow up with Jeroen afterward.

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From: Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US
To: Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org
Cc: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Gerritsen Jeroen" <Jeroen.Gerritsen@tetrattech.com>
Date: 02/13/2013 10:53 AM
Subject: Follow up re 10 mile creek

Hello Mark,

I spoke with Jeroen yesterday about what it would take to develop a credible BCG for communication purposes and figuring out what would need to be done to accomplish this in short order. Greg Pond and he will be touching base and will follow up with you - hopefully in next day or so. I am wrapped up in getting a document out for public release and will be 100% preoccupied until then.

Susan Jackson

-----Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: "Symborski, Mark" <Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org>
From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US
Date: 01/10/2013 02:58PM
Cc: "CBell@BrwnCald.com" <CBell@BrwnCald.com>, "dcaraco@twcnny.rr.com" <dcaraco@twcnny.rr.com>, "dhogan@usgs.gov" <dhogan@usgs.gov>, "Redmond, Doug" <Doug.Redmond@montgomeryparks.org>, "ejdoheny@usgs.gov" <ejdoheny@usgs.gov>, "emcclure@biohabitats.com" <emcclure@biohabitats.com>, "Jennifer.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov" <Jennifer.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "jloperfido@usgs.gov" <jloperfido@usgs.gov>, "jmcdonough@brwncald.com" <jmcdonough@brwncald.com>, "Jennifer Zielinski" <jzielinski@biohabitats.com> (jzielinski@biohabitats.com) <jzielinski@biohabitats.com>, "Nelson, Katherine" <Katherine.Nelson@montgomeryplanning.org>, "Keith.VanNess (Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov)" <Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov>, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Dolan, Mary" <Mary.Dolan@montgomeryplanning.org>, "Curtis, Meosotis (Meosotis.Curtis@montgomerycountymd.gov)" <Meosotis.Curtis@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "Michael Trumbauer" <MTrumbauer@biohabitats.com>, "NLindow@biohabitats.com" <NLindow@biohabitats.com>, "sroberts@biohabitats.com" <sroberts@biohabitats.com>.

Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Taylor Jarnagin/RTP/USEPA/US, "Lazdins, Valdis"
<valdis.lazdins@montgomeryplanning.org>, Wayne Davis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Yusuf
Mohamoud/ATH/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Draft Agenda and Background Documents for Session 2 GoToMeeting, Clarksburg Partnership
Findings/Discussion

Thanks, Mark. Could you send a link or document describing the benthic assessment index and methods currently used in Montgomery Co.? I went to your website and it lists metrics and a 40-point scale. Is this what you use? This will help me to consider how BCG could supplement or enhance your programmatic goals for maintaining the quality of TMC.

Greg

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"Symborski, Mark" ---01/10/2013 02:42:17 PM---All, See the attached files and links below for a Draft Agenda for Session 2, and background document

From: "Symborski, Mark" <Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org>
To: "ejdoheny@usgs.gov" <ejdoheny@usgs.gov>, "Dolan, Mary" <Mary.Dolan@montgomeryplanning.org>, Taylor Jarnagin/RTP/USEPA/US, "sroberts@biohabitats.com" <sroberts@biohabitats.com>, "Nelson, Katherine" <Katherine.Nelson@montgomeryplanning.org>, "Jennifer Zielinski" <jzielinski@biohabitats.com> (jzielinski@biohabitats.com) <jzielinski@biohabitats.com>, "Michael Trumbauer" <MTrumbauer@biohabitats.com>, "NLindow@biohabitats.com" <NLindow@biohabitats.com>, "Keith.VanNess" (Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov) <Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "Curtis, Meosotis" (Meosotis.Curtis@montgomerycountymd.gov) <Meosotis.Curtis@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "Jennifer.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov" <Jennifer.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov>, Yusuf Mohamoud/ATH/USEPA/US@EPA, "emcclure@biohabitats.com" <emcclure@biohabitats.com>, "jmcdonough@brwncaled.com" <jmcdonough@brwncaled.com>, "CBell@BrwnCald.com" <CBell@BrwnCald.com>, "Lazdins, Valdis" <valdis.lazdins@montgomeryplanning.org>, "dcaraco@twcny.rr.com" <dcaraco@twcny.rr.com>, "dhogan@usgs.gov" <dhogan@usgs.gov>, Wayne Davis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, "jloperfido@usgs.gov" <jloperfido@usgs.gov>, "Redmond, Doug" <Doug.Redmond@montgomeryparks.org>, Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/10/2013 02:42 PM
Subject: Draft Agenda and Background Documents for Session 2 GoToMeeting, Clarksburg Partnership Findings/Discussion

All,

See the attached files and links below for a Draft Agenda for Session 2, and background documents for the discussion of the Biological Condition Gradient (BCG). We will discuss potential short-term BCG applications to the Ten Mile Creek master plan analysis, and potential long-term applications as well. The first attached pdf is the original paper that described the BCG, the second pdf is a document that describes the application of the BCG in New Jersey, and the third is a BCG example in Kentucky.

The first link below is to a recent EPA document that provides an updated description of the BCG (*see Section 2.2, Tool #2: The Biological Condition Gradient*), and various case studies summaries that deal with biological assessments and water quality management approaches from around the country. The second link is to a Powerpoint presentation on the BCG development for New England.

http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/aqlife/biocriteria/upload/primer_update.pdf<http://www.epa.gov/region1/neaeb2010/pdfs/3B-http://www.epa.gov/region1/neaeb2010/pdfs/3B-NewEnglandBiologicalConditionGradientModel.pdf>

Mark

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[attachment "GoToMeetings on Clarksburg Partnership Findings and Applications to Ten Mile Creek-DRAFT Agendas-Rev2.docx" deleted by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US] [attachment "Davies and Jackson.pdf" deleted by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US] [attachment "FINAL TALU NJ RPT_2.pdf" deleted by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US] [attachment "KY_BCG_example GP 2004.pdf" deleted by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US]

Jackson, Susank

From: Pond, Greg
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 6:33 PM
To: Passmore, Margaret; Reynolds, Louis
Cc: Forren, John; Fulton, Jennifer; Jackson, Susank
Subject: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

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-----Forwarded by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US on 01/29/2013 06:28PM -----

=====

To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: "Symborski, Mark" <Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org>
Date: 01/29/2013 06:02PM
Cc: "Keith.VanNess (Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov)" <Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "Dolan, Mary" <Mary.Dolan@montgomeryplanning.org>, "Lazdins, Valdis" <valdis.lazdins@montgomeryplanning.org>, Taylor Jarnagin/RTP/USEPA/US, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Redmond, Doug" <Doug.Redmond@montgomeryparks.org>
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From: Pond, Greg
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 6:52 PM
To: Passmore, Margaret
Cc: Fulton, Jennifer; Forren, John; Reynolds, Louis; Jackson, Susank
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

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-----Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA wrote: -----

=====
To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/29/2013 06:50PM
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County =====

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Margaret Passmore
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Cc: John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 01/29/2013 06:32 PM
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Jackson, Susank

From: Passmore, Margaret
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 9:48 AM
To: Jackson, Susank
Cc: Pond, Greg; Fulton, Jennifer; Forren, John; Reynolds, Louis
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

Susan,

My experience with BCG guidance and projects in PA is that we were encouraging the development of a gradient that described the absolute condition of streams where the best condition (Tier 1) was anchored to "natural conditions".

Obviously, we want to encourage counties (or anyone) to protect their best streams.

In this case, I think we should be clear that BCG models were not meant to be a relative measures (Tier 1 is equivalent to best of what's left within a county or watershed).

Greg attended the go to meeting, so can provide more details on conditions of streams in the county, compared to natural conditions (say compared to a broader MBSS reference condition).

Just want to make sure that the concepts of BCG being pegged to "natural" on the high end don't get lost....but we still protect best streams in counties, watersheds, etc when we have the oppty. Could be just how the model is described in the end....

M

Margaret Passmore
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From: Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US
To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/29/2013 11:48 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

Hello, just catching up on the emails between Greg and Maggie this evening.

I am sorry I was not on the goto meeting - totally buried in finalzing document. I will inquire with Mark if there are slides or summary of meeting, I do not have the context for this task.

Per your comments below, if they are looking for a way to communicate current biological condition and changes that they have seen, or predict with future development, I would think some quick work could be done with a core group of experts who know the data and know the study area (whether a watershed, a region, a stream). Chris Yoder and I were just talking the other day about a "back of the envelope" kind of BCG versus the more extensive, expert solicitation process for calibrating a BCG and developing numeric decision rules. This sounds like the case for the "back of the envelope" BCG.

My caution here would be the importance of a small group of scientists who understand the BCG concept as a communication framework and are very practical and focused in what they need to do --- otherwise you run the danger of a lot of "storming" about what needs to be done, which would be horribly frustrating. I get the sense there is not much time here.

Montgomery County has benthic invertebrate data, I know. What about fish?
Maggie and Greg, are you able to step in and help here?

Susan

-----Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US

Date: 01/29/2013 06:52PM

Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

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-----Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA wrote: -----

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To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/29/2013 06:50PM
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
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From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US
To: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/29/2013 06:32 PM
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-----Forwarded by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US on 01/29/2013 06:28PM -----

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To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: "Symborski, Mark" <Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org>
Date: 01/29/2013 06:02PM
Cc: "Keith.VanNess (Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov)"
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Jackson, Susank

From: Jackson, Susank
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 1:30 PM
To: Pond, Greg
Cc: Fulton, Jennifer; Forren, John; Reynolds, Louis; Passmore, Margaret
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

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From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US
To: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
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Jackson, Susank

From: Jackson, Susank
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 8:42 AM
To: Pond, Greg; Gerritsen Jeroen
Cc: Bergdale, Amy; Fulton, Jennifer; Forren, John; Reynolds, Louis; Passmore, Margaret
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

Jeroen,

Please give Greg a call and discuss. I am focused on finalizing the document and cannot do anything else.

Greg, I will get back to Mark as I promised and just let him know that I have talked with Jeroen and you and he will get back to him.

Susan

-----Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US
Date: 02/13/2013 08:14AM
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@MSO365, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US, Amy Bergdale/R3/USEPA/US
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

Hi Susan,

Thanks for getting back to me. We are interested in assisting in this endeavor, but not quite sure how a BPJ BCG (I like that descriptor) would work without vetting a lot of data through an expert panel. Curious what Jeroen had to say. I believe sole purpose is to use this to protect what they have from future development proposals, and have something formalized to be used as a communication tool.

I will reach out to Mark S. today and request a dataset (bugs, fish, salamanders, habitat, chem, landuse from Montgomery Co.) and then reach out to MBSS to acquire additional data from nearby (same ecoregion) high quality sites. I'm thinking if we had ~15-20 sites along a disturbance gradient (with more of them generally in the excellent-good range), we could attempt to place them into BCG tiers and go from there (like we did in the initial national workgroup breakout sessions). I would want the data now in order to assemble some spreadsheets ahead of a one-day meeting in the very near future.

As for \$\$ (that we don't have), I'm hoping Montgomery Co. could pay for some experts to travel (??). We, however, might be stymied for travel money though since we are on an "essential travel only" directive and at the whims of our Division's budget and management.

I would certainly reach out to Scott Stranko and his MBSS group to attend.

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☐ Susank Jackson---02/12/2013 01:29:58 PM---Hi Greg, I spoke briefly with Mark yesterday. It would certainly be a good thing for you to assist.

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To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/12/2013 01:29 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

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-----Forwarded by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US on 01/29/2013 06:28PM -----

=====

To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
From: "Symborski, Mark" <Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org>
Date: 01/29/2013 06:02PM
Cc: "Keith.VanNess (Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov)"
<Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "Dolan, Mary"
<Mary.Dolan@montgomeryplanning.org>, "Lazdins, Valdis"
<valdis.lazdins@montgomeryplanning.org>, Taylor Jarnagin/RTP/USEPA/US, Margaret
Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Redmond, Doug" <Doug.Redmond@montgomeryparks.org>
Subject: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

=====

Hi Greg,

As a follow-up to our recent GoToMeeting, I have a few questions. We are interested in the possibility of developing a BCG for Montgomery County, but are not sure it can be done in time for the Clarksburg Master Plan Amendment currently under development. With this plan, as I mentioned, we are under a very restricted timeline.

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We are trying to pin the effort and time needed for developing a BCG down so we can make a call as to whether we can reasonably attempt to develop one in time to support the Clarksburg Plan amendment (we can't afford to waste any effort at this point). If not, we would still be interested in exploring the option of developing a BCG at a later date. Let me know what you think. Thanks.

Mark

Mark A. Symborski
Environmental Planning Coordinator
Montgomery County Planning Department
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

301-495-4636

301-495-1303 (Fax)

mark.symborski@montgomeryplanning.org<<mailto:mark.symborski@mncppc-mc.org>>

Jackson, Susank

From: Jackson, Susank
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 8:44 AM
To: Pond, Greg
Cc: Bergdale, Amy; Fulton, Jennifer; Forren, John; Reynolds, Louis; Passmore, Margaret
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

I do have some funds I can use to support Jeroen scoping this out with you and Mark to determine if doable. If a task is identified for Jeroen to do to support this effort, I think I can provide some funding for his support. I will need to do this one task at a time since FY 13 budget/sequestration issues have not been finalized. But, if this is doable, it seems a very worthwhile effort.

Susan

-----Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US
Date: 02/13/2013 08:14AM
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@MSO365, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US, Amy Bergdale/R3/USEPA/US
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

Hi Susan,

Thanks for getting back to me. We are interested in assisting in this endeavor, but not quite sure how a BPJ BCG (I like that descriptor) would work without vetting a lot of data through an expert panel. Curious what Jeroen had to say. I believe sole purpose is to use this to protect what they have from future development proposals, and have something formalized to be used as a communication tool.

I will reach out to Mark S. today and request a dataset (bugs, fish, salamanders, habitat, chem, landuse from Montgomery Co.) and then reach out to MBSS to acquire additional data from nearby (same ecoregion) high quality sites. I'm thinking if we had ~15-20 sites along a disturbance gradient (with more of them generally in the excellent-good range), we could attempt to place them into BCG tiers and go from there (like we did in the initial national workgroup breakout sessions). I would want the data now in order to assemble some spreadsheets ahead of a one-day meeting in the very near future.

As for \$\$ (that we don't have), I'm hoping Montgomery Co. could pay for some experts to travel (??). We, however, might be stymied for travel money though since we are on an "essential travel only" directive and at the whims of our Division's budget and management.

I would certainly reach out to Scott Stranko and his MBSS group to attend.

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 Susank Jackson---02/12/2013 01:29:58 PM---Hi Greg, I spoke briefly with Mark yesterday. It would

certainly be a good thing for you to assist.

From: Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US
To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Forren/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/12/2013 01:29 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

Hi Greg,

I spoke briefly with Mark yesterday. It would certainly be a good thing for you to assist. Time frame is short though. I will be calling Jeroen in about 1 1/2 hours to pick his brain abt. If you think useful, I would like to see if I can shave abt off of the tiny budget I have to get him to help out, if that is at all useful. The key thing is the preparation of data and getting folks on board ahead of time so that a BCG could be developed for purposes of communication. It could be considered a BPJ BCG, not extensively developed nor peer reviewed but sufficient for communication purposes.

Your thoughts?

Susan

☐ Greg Pond---01/29/2013 06:32:53 PM---Would like to discuss whether I should take this on with your all's assistance. Obviously, a 1 day wo

From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US
To: Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Louis Reynolds/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: John Forren/R3/USEPA/US, Jennifer Fulton/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/29/2013 06:32 PM
Subject: Fw: Potential BCG Development for Montgomery County

Would like to discuss whether I should take this on with your all's assistance.

Obviously, a 1 day workshop would just attempt to nail down some meaningful narrative. I was pushing for a full BCG effort, which they'd like to have in the long term. Lets discus ASAP

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To: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

From: "Symborski, Mark" <Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org>
Date: 01/29/2013 06:02PM
Cc: "Keith.VanNess (Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov)"
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Mark

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Jackson, Susank

From: Jackson, Susank
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2013 10:53 AM
To: Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org
Cc: Pond, Greg; Gerritsen Jeroen
Subject: Follow up re 10 mile creek

Hello Mark,

I spoke with Jeroen yesterday about what it would take to develop a credible BCG for communication purposes and figuring out what would need to be done to accomplish this in short order. Greg Pond and he will be touching base and will follow up with you - hopefully in next day or so. I am wrapped up in getting a document out for public release and will be 100% preoccupied until then.

Susan Jackson

-----Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US wrote: -----


To: "Symborski, Mark" <Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org>
From: Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US
Date: 01/10/2013 02:58PM
Cc: "CBell@BrwnCald.com" <CBell@BrwnCald.com>, "dcaraco@twcny.rr.com" <dcaraco@twcny.rr.com>, "dhogan@usgs.gov" <dhogan@usgs.gov>, "Redmond, Doug" <Doug.Redmond@montgomeryparks.org>, "ejdoheny@usgs.gov" <ejdoheny@usgs.gov>, "emcclure@biohabitats.com" <emcclure@biohabitats.com>, "Jennifer.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov" <Jennifer.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "jloperfido@usgs.gov" <jloperfido@usgs.gov>, "jmcdonough@brwnald.com" <jmcdonough@brwnald.com>, "Jennifer Zielinski <jzielinski@biohabitats.com> (jzielinski@biohabitats.com)" <jzielinski@biohabitats.com>, "Nelson, Katherine" <Katherine.Nelson@montgomeryplanning.org>, "Keith.VanNess (Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov)" <Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov>, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Dolan, Mary" <Mary.Dolan@montgomeryplanning.org>, "Curtis, Meosotis (Meosotis.Curtis@montgomerycountymd.gov)" <Meosotis.Curtis@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "Michael Trumbauer" <MTrumbauer@biohabitats.com>, "NLindow@biohabitats.com" <NLindow@biohabitats.com>, "sroberts@biohabitats.com" <sroberts@biohabitats.com>, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Taylor Jarnagin/RTP/USEPA/US, "Lazdins, Valdis" <valdis.lazdins@montgomeryplanning.org>, Wayne Davis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Yusuf Mohamoud/ATH/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: Draft Agenda and Background Documents for Session 2 GoToMeeting, Clarksburg Partnership Findings/Discussion

Thanks, Mark. Could you send a link or document describing the benthic assessment index and methods currently used in Montgomery Co.? I went to your website and it lists metrics and a 40-point scale. Is this what you use? This will help me to consider how BCG could supplement or enhance your programmatic goals for maintaining the quality of TMC.

Greg

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 Symborski, Mark" ---01/10/2013 02:42:17 PM---All, See the attached files and links below for a Draft Agenda for Session 2, and background documents

From: "Symborski, Mark" <Mark.Symborski@montgomeryplanning.org>
To: "ejdoheny@usgs.gov" <ejdoheny@usgs.gov>, "Dolan, Mary" <Mary.Dolan@montgomeryplanning.org>, Taylor Jarnagin/RTP/USEPA/US, "'sroberts@biohabitats.com'" <sroberts@biohabitats.com>, "Nelson, Katherine" <Katherine.Nelson@montgomeryplanning.org>, "Jennifer Zielinski" <jzielinski@biohabitats.com> (jzielinski@biohabitats.com)" <jzielinski@biohabitats.com>, "Michael Trumbauer" <MTrumbauer@biohabitats.com>, "'NLindow@biohabitats.com'" <NLindow@biohabitats.com>, "Keith.VanNess (Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov)" <Keith.VanNess@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "Curtis, Meosotis (Meosotis.Curtis@montgomerycountymd.gov)" <Meosotis.Curtis@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "Jennifer.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov" <Jennifer.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov>, Yusuf Mohamoud/ATH/USEPA/US@EPA, "'emcclure@biohabitats.com'" <emcclure@biohabitats.com>, "jmcdonough@brwnald.com" <jmcdonough@brwnald.com>, "'CBell@BrwnCald.com'" <CBell@BrwnCald.com>, "Lazdins, Valdis" <valdis.lazdins@montgomeryplanning.org>, "dcaraco@twcny.rr.com" <dcaraco@twcny.rr.com>, "dhogan@usgs.gov" <dhogan@usgs.gov>, Wayne Davis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, "jloperfido@usgs.gov" <jloperfido@usgs.gov>, "Redmond, Doug" <Doug.Redmond@montgomeryparks.org>, Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Margaret Passmore/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Susank Jackson/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/10/2013 02:42 PM
Subject: Draft Agenda and Background Documents for Session 2 GoToMeeting, Clarksburg Partnership Findings/Discussion

All,

See the attached files and links below for a Draft Agenda for Session 2, and background documents for the discussion of the Biological Condition Gradient (BCG). We will discuss potential short-term BCG applications to the Ten Mile Creek master plan analysis, and potential long-term applications as well. The first attached pdf is the original paper that described the BCG, the second pdf is a document that describes the application of the BCG in New Jersey, and the third is a BCG example in Kentucky.

The first link below is to a recent EPA document that provides an updated description of the BCG (*see Section 2.2, Tool #2: The Biological Condition Gradient*), and various case studies summaries that deal with biological assessments and water quality management approaches from around the country. The second link is to a Powerpoint presentation on the BCG development for New England.

http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/aqlife/biocriteria/upload/primer_update.pdf
<http://www.epa.gov/region1/neaeb2010/pdfs/3B-http://www.epa.gov/region1/neaeb2010/pdfs/3B-NewEnglandBiologicalConditionGradientModel.pdf>

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[attachment "GoToMeetings on Clarksburg Partnership Findings and Applications to Ten Mile Creek-DRAFT Agendas-Rev2.docx" deleted by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US] [attachment "Davies and Jackson.pdf" deleted by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US] [attachment "FINAL TALU NJ RPT_2.pdf" deleted by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US] [attachment "KY_BCG_example GP 2004.pdf" deleted by Greg Pond/R3/USEPA/US]

Jackson, Susank

From: Pond, Greg
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 3:47 PM
To: 'Jeroen.Gerritsen@tetrattech.com'; Van Ness, Keith
Cc: Jackson, Susank; Reynolds, Louis
Subject: populating the data template

Jeroen and Keith, I was playing around trying to figure out how the template works and pasted the Montgomery Co. Master bug list into the Mn template. I had to re-organize the columns and add several blank phylogenetic fields (albeit empty) etc., to make it fit. It seemed to update each station tab with the new assignments (that is, attributes changed though they were still linked to Mn's sample bugs). The only bugaboo is that we are going to have to link up (in Access or whatever database) the new master taxa list and Keith's sample data from the 20 sites. There, the attributes will populate each bug record from the samples. That is how the attribute "metrics" (at top of each worksheet) are calculated, since they are not taken from the Master taxa list directly. Was that comprehensible?

Keith, I can do this in the name of time...if I promise not to peak at the site lists. What do you think Jeroen, any hints? Will need to do this for the fish too.

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